ABSTRACT

A chromatic dispersion characterization system for an optical transmission path is based on setting the operating point (the DC bias) of an external modulator alternatively on the inverting and non-inverting characteristic of the modulator. A dispersion regime of choice may be selected based on the modulator's alpha parameter, and the BER information recorded against the respective values of the DC bias. This system can be used to determine when the net CD in a link is zero, i.e. the network provider has provisioned sufficient compensation to match the CD in the link. The link operates in a zero-dispersion regime when the quality of the received signal does not change between the two modes.